

In the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

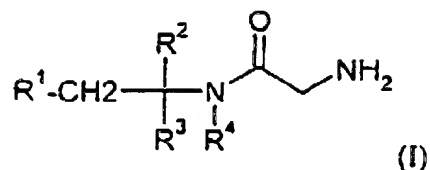
1-8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) A method of treating ~~or preventing~~ irritable bowel syndrome which comprises administering to a patient in the need thereof a compound having NMDA receptor antagonist activity or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome comprising a compound having NMDA receptor antagonist activity and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10, wherein the compound having NMDA receptor antagonist activity is a non-competitive NMDA receptor antagonist.

12. (currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10, wherein the compound having NMDA receptor antagonist activity is a compound of formula \pm (I) or a metabolite or isomer thereof



where:

R¹ and R² are independently phenyl or 4-fluorophenyl;

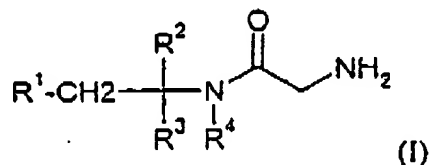
R³ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl or methoxycarbonyl;

R⁴ is hydrogen or methyl;

~~and metabolites and isomers thereof both as a free base and or a~~
pharmaceutically acceptable salts salt thereof.

13. (new) The method according to claim 9 wherein the compound is a non-competitive NMDA receptor antagonist.

14. (new) The method according to claim 9 wherein the compound is a compound of formula (I) or a metabolite or isomer thereof



where:

R¹ and R² are independently phenyl or 4-fluorophenyl;

R³ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl or methoxycarbonyl;

R⁴ is hydrogen or methyl;

as a free base or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. (new) The method according to claim 14 wherein the compound is remacemide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. (new) The method according to claim 14 wherein the compound is 2,3-diphenyl-2-propylamine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

17. (new) The method according to claim 14 wherein the compound is (S)-1-phenyl-2-(2-pyridyl)ethanamine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18. (new) The method according to claim 9 wherein the compound is memantine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

19. (new) The method according to claim 9 wherein the compound is 2-amino-N-(1,2-diphenylethyl)acetamide, alpha-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-1-ethanamine, (+)-N-ethyl-1-phenyl-2-(3-pyrazine)ethanamine, or 2-amidino-6-(2-amino-2-phenyl)-ethylpyridine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.